

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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SUBJ: REACTION TO SECY KISSINGER'S UNGA GENERAL DEBATE
SPEECH

SUMMARY: WITH EXCEPTION OF OIL PRODUCERS, UN DELEGATIONS
HAVE GENERALLY HAD POSITIVE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT
SECRETARY'S SPEECH. SOME HAVE RATHER NOTICEABLY REFRAINED
FROM COMMENTING. RATHER THAN GENERALIZE ABOUT THE OVERALL
TONE OR IMPACT, HOWEVER, MANY COMMENTS FOCUSED ON PARTICULAR
ISSUES, WITH OPINIONS VARYING ACCORDING TO INTERESTS OF
THE CRITIC. WE NOTE WITH INTEREST THAT OIL PRODUCERS
STUNG BY SECRETARY'S WORDS HAVE NOT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE,
BEEN DENYING ESSENTIAL ACCURACY OF PARAGRAPHS ON THE
SUBJECT. END SUMMARY.

1. IRAN'S PERMREP HOVEYDA, AS USUAL AN ARTICULATE SPOKESMAN
OF OIL PRODUCERS GROUP, CHALLENGED WORD "ARTIFICIAL"
AS APPLIED TO OIL PRICES AND ARGUED THAT US TACTICS
INVOLVED IN SECRETARY'S (AND PRESIDENT FORD'S) SPEECHES
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WOULD "REAP A BAD HARVEST." HOVEYDA WAS REMINDED THAT

WE WERE ASKING FOR COOPERATION IN SOLVING AN EVIDENT PROBLEM, HOVEYDA SAID WE SHOULD STOP STRESSING THE COST OF OIL PRICES TO LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS MUCH AS WE WERE DOING, AND ALLEGED MUCH TALK IN UN CORRIDORS ABOUT U.S. SHEDDING CROCODILE TEARS SINCE ON FOOD PROBLEMS WE WERE PLAYING CARDS CLOSE TO CHEST AND NOT MAKING ANY DEFINITE PROMISES.

2. NON-OIL-PRODUCING ARABS WERE POSITIVE. EGYPTIAN MISOFF THOUGHT WHOLE SPEECH VERY IMPRESSIVE, AND NATURALLY GAVE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO "THE EXPLANATION OF THE CONFLICTING BUT EQUALLY LEGITIMATE INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST." A LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVE FOUND THE SPEECH REALISTIC AND SOBER.

3. SECTION ON CYPRUS WELL RECEIVED. UKUN COUNSELLOR IMMEDIATELY PRAISED CYPRUS REMARKS AS VERY HELPFUL AND SUPPORTIVE OF CALLAGHAN POSITION. HE THOUGHT STRESS ON NEED FOR PARTIES THEMSELVES TO WORK OUT CONSTITUTIONAL SETTLEMENT WAS PARTICULARLY USEFUL. DISSENTING, KYPRIANOU (CYPRUS) SAID IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT "IN THE CASE OF A SMALL COUNTRY ATTACKED AND OCCUPIED BY A LARGER ONE, THE QUIET DIPLOMACY ADVOCATED BY ONE SPEAKER THIS MORNING DOES NOT APPLY." TURKISH DELEGATION PRAISED STATEMENT AS EXCELLENT, REALISTIC AND IN TUNE WITH REALITIES ON CYPRUS.

4. DELEGATES DEALING WITH DISARMAMENT, NOTABLY A SWEDISH REPRESENTATIVE, FOUND SECTION ON NON-PROLIFERATION "VERY INTERESTING AND ENCOURAGING." OTHERS NOTED SUBSTANTIAL SPACE DEVOTED TO THIS SUBJECT.

5. FROM VARIOUS EUROPEANS, AFRICANS AND LATINS, THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH ELICITED VERY POSITIVE WORDS. SENEGALESE SAID "RIGHT ON" AND THE SECRETARY'S PHRASEOLOGY STRUCK A GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE AS "REMINISCENT OF CLASSIC LATIN AUTHORS." FROM EVERY CONTINENT, REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES TOUCHED BY OIL PRICE INCREASES HAD POSITIVE ADJECTIVES: REALISTIC AND SOBER--A TOUGH SPECT--SERIOUS --WHAT HE SAID ABOUT OIL WAS "JUST RIGHT".

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6. COMMENT: IN SUM, ALL INDICATIONS TO DATE ARE THAT SECRETARY'S SPEECH WAS ON TARGET. OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT US POSITION ON OIL AS EXPRESSED BY SECRETARY (AND IN RECENT SPEECHES BY PRESIDENT FORD) HAS HAD MAJOR IMPACT ON CONSCIOUSNESS OF UN COMMUNITY. WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, JUDGE WHAT WILL BE REACTION IN UNGA OF ARABS AND THEIR FRIENDS. ARABS THEMSELVES MAY WELL BE UNABLE TO ASSESS THEIR POSITION UNTIL MINISTERIAL-LEVEL DELEGATES IN NEW

YORK FOR GENERAL DEBATE HAVE RETURNED TO CAPITALS AND
REGISTERED IMPRESSIONS GAINED HERE. THERE IS NO DOUBT
THEY WERE STUNG BY THE BLUNT TRUTH. SCALI

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